IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for operating a portable computing device, the method comprising:

~~coupling a signal line accessible through an outlet of the portable computing device to a communication device;~~

detecting that an external device is ~~signal on the signal line to determine whether the communication device is~~ actively connected and providing power to ~~a~~ the portable computing device; and

responsive to detecting the signal, suspending execution of at least a portion of a program~~, the p~~ that ~~ortion of the program reducing~~ would otherwise reduce a power consumption of the portable computing device after a given duration of inactivity.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a ~~program for reducing power consumption of the portable computing device~~ includes suspending occurrence of a timeout feature, wherein the time-out feature. ~~significantly reduces power consumption of the portable computing device~~.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, ~~including~~ further comprising transmitting one or more ~~sending~~ communications from the portable computing device using the ~~communication~~ external device when the ~~communication~~ external device is actively connected to the portable computing device.

4. · (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~42, wherein coupling a signal line includes extending the signal line to a pin element of a pin connector forming the outlet.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a program for ~~reducing power consumption of the portable computing device~~-includes selectively suspending the occurrence of the time-out feature when the ~~communication device~~external device is actively coupled.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein suspending execution of at least a portion of a program ~~for reducing power consumption of the portable computing device~~-includes disabling the time-out feature while the ~~communication device~~external device is actively coupled.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting <u>that an external device is actively connected and providing power</u> ~~the signal~~-includes measuring a voltage level of the signal.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein <u>detecting that an external device is actively connected and providing power</u> ~~detecting a signal from the communication device~~-includes coupling the portable computing device to the ~~communication device~~<u>external device</u> using a pin connector, and wherein one pin in the pin connector extends into the signal line.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, ~~including~~ further comprising launching

a program that is downloaded to the portable computing device through the ~~communication~~

~~device~~external device once the occurrence of the time-out feature is suspended.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, ~~including~~ further comprising launching

a program once the occurrence of the time-out feature is suspended, the program providing a

display content selected from a group of display contents ~~displays~~ consisting of a world clock,

a digital image stored from a digital camera device, and a display of real-time information

provided by a data network.

Claims 11-29 CANCELLED

30.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~42, ~~including~~ further comprising

determining a type of the ~~communication~~ external device from a signal on the one or more

signal lines.

31.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, ~~including~~ further comprising

configuring execution of software ~~executable~~ on the portable computing device based on the

type of the ~~communication~~ external device that is determined from the signal on the one or

more signal lines.

Claims 32-33: CANCEL

34.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~32~~1, ~~wherein~~ wherein suspending

execution of at least a portion of a program ~~software executable on the portable computing~~

~~device~~ includes operating software to continuously illuminate a display of the portable

computing device at a maximum illumination level.

35.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein suspending execution of at

least a portion of a program includes operating ~~software executable on the portable~~

~~computing device~~ includes operating software to continuously display a digital image on the

display of the portable computing device at a maximum illumination level.

36.   (Currently Amended) A method for operating a portable computing device,

comprising:

        responsive to a connector of the portable computing device being connected to a

connector of a portable computer, receiving one or more signals from the accessory device,

the one or more signals including a power signal;

        ~~automatically determining whether an accessory device is communicatively coupled to~~

~~the portable computing device;~~

        automatically determining a type of accessory device ~~communicatively device~~coupled

to the portable computing device using a signal on the one or more signal lines; and

        ~~based on the type of accessory device,~~responsive to receiving the power signal from

the accessory device, suspending a feature for reducing power consumption of the portable

computing device after a given duration of inactivity; and

responsive to receiving one or more signals from the accessory device, executing at

least one program based on the type of accessory device.

37.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein suspending a feature for

reducing power consumption of the portable computing device includes suspending the

feature for reducing the at least one program controls an intensity of light in a display of the

portable computer device.

38.   CANCEL

39.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein automatically determining a

type of accessory device coupled to the portable computing device determining a type of

accessory device communicatively device coupled to the portable computing device

comprisesincludes determining a level of power that is supplied by the accessory device to

the portable computing device.

CLAIMS 40-41: CANCEL

42.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting that an external device is actively

connected and providing power to the portable computing device includes coupling one or

more signal lines accessible through an outlet of the portable computing device to a

communication device.

43.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein when the signal on the signal line is not

detected, executing at least the portion of the program that would reduce the power

consumption of the portable computing device by altering at least one of a performance or a

function of the portable computing device after a given duration of inactivity.

44.   (New) A method for operating a portable computing device, the method comprising:

        detecting whether an external power is being provided to the portable computing

device;

        if the external power is not being provided, executing at least a portion of a program to

cause the portable computing device to reduce operations and power consumption after a given

duration of inactivity; else

        if the external power is being provided, suspending execution of at least the portion of

the program.

45.   (New) The method of claim 44, wherein while the external power is being provided,

suspending execution of at least the portion of the program includes maintaining a display of

the portable computing device at a high setting of brightness unless an input is provided from

the user to reduce or turn-off the display.

46.   (New) The method of claim 45, wherein while the external power is being provided,

suspending execution of at least the portion of the program includes maintaining a content

appearing on a display of the portable computing device.

47.   (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the content corresponds to a digital photograph.

48.   (New) The method of claim 44, wherein suspending execution of at least the portion of the program includes maintaining a backlight of a display, after the backlight is turned on, while the external power is being provided.

49.   (New) The method of claim 44, wherein

if the external power is not being provided, executing at least a portion of a program to cause the portable computing device to reduce operations and power consumption includes switching a backlight off a first given duration after the backlight is turned on;

if the external power is being provided, suspending execution of at least the portion of the program includes maintaining the backlight on for at least a duration that is longer than the first given duration.

50.   (New) The method of claim 44, wherein

if the external power is not being provided, executing at least a portion of a program to cause the portable computing device to reduce operations and power consumption includes switching a backlight off a first given duration of inactivity after the backlight is turned on;

if the external power is being provided, suspending execution of at least the portion of the program includes maintaining the backlight on for at least a duration of inactivity that is longer than the first given duration of inactivity.

51.   (New) The method of claim 44, wherein executing at least a portion of a program to cause the portable computing device to reduce operations and power consumption after a given duration of inactivity includes placing the portable computing device into a sleep-mode.